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case of the Scottish fishing industry, and, if so, what means should be adopted.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

AT the University of Pennsylvania Dr. R. M. Pearce has withdrawn from the chair of pathology and will confine his work to the chair of research medicine, and Dr. Allen J. Smith returns to the charge of the department of pathology, retaining at the same time the directorship of the laboratories of comparative pathology and tropical medicine.

DR. J. H. CLO, of the University of Chicago, has been appointed to the chair of physics in Tulane University.

DR. HOWARD T. KARSNER, demonstrator of pathology in the University of Pennsylvania, has been appointed assistant professor of experimental pathology in Harvard University.

AT the University of Maine, Dr. M. A. Chrysler, professor of botany, has been appointed head of the department of biology to succeed Dr. G. A. Drew, and Mr. H. M. Parshley has been appointed instructor in zoology.

DR. FRASER HARRIS, at present lecturer on physiology in the University of Birmingham, has been appointed professor of physiology in the Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

THE appointment of lecturer and demonstrator in the physical department of the East London College, vacant by the resignation of Mr. E. Marsden, M.Sc., on his election to the John Harling Research Fellowship at the University of Manchester, has been accepted by Mr. T. Harris, B.Sc., of the Imperial College of Science and the Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge. Mr. Harris has been engaged in advanced research work under Professor Sir J. J. Thomson.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

##### "WASHINGTON SCIENCE"

THE phrase which heads this communication appears now and then in print and may be assumed to have a depreciatory significance,

whether this is due to a mistaken estimate of the quality of research work done in that city under governmental supervision; or with a feeling that scientific men so employed have what in college slang is termed a "soft snap"; or to a vague impression that a man willing to accept government employment must necessarily be a lower order of being in his general class, or to all these ideas combined in varying proportions—can not be decided here. But it occurs to me that the experience of one who has spent nearly half a century in scientific work, under government auspices, might throw some needed light on the subject for those without similar experience.

It is to be premised that scientific men differ like other men in their temperaments, breadth of view and social training. Their interest in and devotion to a particular line of research does not divest them of the common frailties of mankind, whether in Washington or elsewhere. In the history of American science, the three least creditable and most bitter controversies which have affected the relations of scientific men were between scientists of a high order, not Washingtonians.

Civil service reform has changed for the better in many ways the conditions confronting those desiring to enter the service of the government. Yet the writer entered that service at a time when no such reform had been instituted, and from the first day to this date has never been asked what his politics were or requested to secure "influence" to maintain his position or obtain promotion. The fact that he was believed to possess certain qualifications for his work and has conducted it since appointment in a satisfactory manner has covered the whole ground.

So far as the writer knows, barring the changes due to civil service reform laws, this experience is not exceptional.

We hear much about "red tape" as an obstacle to efficient work. Now "red tape" means fundamentally the fixing of responsibility. This may be either financial or other. The uninformed critic does not realize that the function of "red tape" is reciprocal, that